

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (~~Currently Amended~~) Ball cage for homokinetic joints, ~~formed from a blank that is configured as a substantially annular spherical segment~~, the ball cage comprising:
a ball cage blank that is configured as a substantially annular spherical segment and has at least some functional zones that are elevated as compared to an adjacent surface of the ball cage blank; and

window-type ball pockets that are formed in the ball cage blank and are located along an equator with substantially equator-parallel bearing surfaces that interact with joint balls, with substantially annular

wherein the functional zones that are designed are located at least on outer ring edge areas and that interact with a joint bell, and with substantially annular functional areas that are designed on inner ring areas and interact with the joint spider, wherein on the blank at least some of the functional zones are elevated compared to the neighboring areas of the ball cage.

2. (~~Canceled~~)

3. (~~Canceled~~)

4. (~~Canceled~~)

5. (~~Canceled~~)

6. (~~Canceled~~)

7. (~~Canceled~~)

8. (~~Currently Amended~~) Ball cage pursuant to claim 71, wherein the window-type ball pockets have such dimensions that the surfaces, on which the equator-parallel functional zones are designed, are longer than these and protrude on both sides beyond the functional zone.

9. (~~Canceled~~)

10. (~~Canceled~~)

11. (New) A method for producing a ball cage, the method comprising:
machining a functional area of a ball cage blank with an uninterrupted cut,
wherein before the machining, the functional area is elevated as compared to an adjacent surface of the ball cage blank.

12. (New) The method pursuant to claim 11, further comprising hardening the ball cage blank before the machining the functional area.

13 (New) The method pursuant to claim 12, wherein the machining is hard-turning.

14 (New) The method pursuant to claim 11, wherein, after the machining, the functional area are elevated as compared to the adjacent surface.

15 (New) The method pursuant to claim 11, wherein, after the machining, the functional area is a same level as compared to the adjacent surface.

16 (New) The method pursuant to claim 11, further comprising forming the ball cage blank by a rolling process.

17 (New) The method pursuant to claim 11, further comprising stamping window-type ball pockets.
